

REMARKS

The Office Action of July 26, 2004 has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1, 4-6, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the US 4005564.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over 564 in view of US 290803.

Claims 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over 564 in view of US 458797.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims applicant has amended claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references, and particularly to the patent to 564, it can be seen that this patent discloses a bridle bit. The Examiner states that the mouth piece of 564 consists of at most two parts 18, 20. However, it seems that the Examiner has overlooked the third part, namely the center coupling member 22 that connects the two parts 18, 20 together. Without this center member 22 the two parts 18, 20 would not be connected together. Thus, 564 does not disclose a snaffle bit having a mouthpiece consisting of at most two parts. The mouthpiece of 564 consists of three pieces, not two as in the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1, 4-6, 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The 803 patent has been discussed previously during the prosecution of this application. This reference discloses a bridle bit having a center portion for placement in the horse's mouth, which center portion is made up of five parts so that it can flex in the horse's mouth. 803 does not disclose a bit having a mouthpiece made of at most two parts, as in the presently claimed

invention.

The Examiner combined this reference with 564 in determining that claim 7 would be unpatentable over such a combination. Since neither of these references teaches a mouthpiece consisting of at most two parts, their combination cannot teach such a construction as recited in the claims presently on file.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The 797 patent discloses a method of making wrenches. This reference has nothing to do with a bit of any type and thus would not give any suggestion or motivation for modifying a bit as taught by 564.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 20, 2004.

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